

THE
3573
G R E A T D U T Y

Of BELIEVING in the

Lord *JESUS CHRIST*
—K

Enforced from His
PERSONAL EXCELLENCIES,
AND
SPECIAL BENEFITS.

Solomon's Song, v. 16.
He is altogether *Lovely*,
Ephesians iii. 8.

Unto me is this Grace given, that I should preach
—the *unsearchable Riches* of CHRIST.

John xiv. 1.
Ye believe in God—*Believe* also in ME.

L O N D O N :

Printed in the YEAR MDCCLIX.



YOU are earnestly entreated not to condemn or throw aside this plain and friendly Address, until you have *duly considered* the important contents of it; and diligently *compared* it with God's holy Word; the only Rule of all Christian Faith and Practice. And then *Believe* and *Act* accordingly, as ever you hope for Salvation from God.



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T H E
G R E A T D U T Y

Of BELIEVING in the

Lord *JESUS CHRIST.*

(1) **T**HE Necessity and Excellency
of the Knowledge of CHRIST
JESUS.

ONE of the first great discoveries which is made, when the Spirit of God causes the scales of ignorance to fall from the mind of a sinner by his saving grace, is, the *Excellency, Suitableness, and Necessity* of the Lord JESUS CHRIST in His glorious Person and inestimable Benefits. *GOD who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shineth into their hearts, to give them the light of the knowledge of the glory of GOD in the face (or person) of Jesus Christ, 2 Cor. iv. 6.* And happy, unspeakably happy is it for us guilty, miserable sinners, that we have such a mighty Saviour and Redeemer to *look unto!* Through whose precious Sacrifice and prevailing Intercession we may be *reconciled* to God's infinitely holy and offended Majesty: And by whose

A 2 powerful.

4 *The Necessity and Excellence of*

powerful Spirit and Grace our sinful Natures may be *restored* to his blessed Image.

With much less loss to us might the Sun that shines by Day, and the Moon and Stars which adorn the Night, be extinguished, than that our Souls should be *ignorant* of and *uninfluenced* by this glorious SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, *Mal* iv. 3. Whose saving mercy and grace is the *light* and *life* of this lower Creation of GOD, and whose Glory and Excellency is the *joy* and *wonder* of the Worlds on high.—All the infidelity and disaffection of *ungodly minds*, and the weakness of faith, despondencies of heart, and defects of love in *sincere Christians*, are owing, in different degrees, to their IGNORANCE of this glorious and divine Redeemer: the knowledge of whom is of the greatest *Necessity* and *Advantage*.—The soul of Man may be ignorant of ten thousand Things without any lessening of its real and substantial Happiness; but all the promised Blessings of God that pertain to *life* and *godliness*, are given unto us through the *knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ*.—If *mercy* and *peace* be multiplied unto us, it is through the *knowledge of GOD, and of Jesus Christ our Lord*, 2 Pet. i. 2, 3.—And it is the *great duty* of the Christian Religion, to *grow in Grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*, 2 Pet. iii. 8.

He is of such *absolute Necessity* to our Salvation and Happiness, that without Him it is *impossible* we should attain unto it. We are all guilty, condemned Sinners, by God's holy Law; He is our great *Atonement* and *Advocate*, 1 John ii. 2.—We are weak and enfeebled sinners by our Fall; He is the Lord in whom alone we have *Strength* and *Righteousness*, Isa. xlv. 4.—We are impure and defiled beings before GOD; He is *Jesus* our *Sanctifier*, Heb. ii. 11.—We are by nature spiritually
dead

dead and insensible; He is a *quickning Spirit*, 1 Cor. xv. 45.—We are tempted and oppressed Creatures; He is the great *Captain of our Salvation*, Heb. ii. 10.—We are afflicted and desponding sinners; He is the *Consolation of Israel*, Luke ii. 25. but without Him nothing but confounding Glories are discoverable in the infinite God; nothing but *Misery, Wretchedness, and Despair*, in ourselves. Which made St Paul say, *I count all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; and do count them but dung that I may win Christ; and be found in Him, &c.* Phil. iii 8, 9.

The sensible Christian, that knows any thing of God and himself, would not *live a day* without the Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the Mercy and Grace which he has purchased and revealed, for the World. He knows it to be the most dangerous *presumption* for him to look up to a God of infinite Justice and Holiness, for his favour and acceptance, but *through* this blessed Mediator. He dares not *approach* to God in Prayer or Worship but *by faith* in Him. All the *Mercy and Grace* he needs to make him wise, holy and happy, in this World and the next, he *depends* continually upon him for, and receives *from him*, by virtue of his gracious Influence and powerful Intercession, 1 Cor. i. 27—30. *Phil.* iv. 13, 19. And all that slight and disregard this great Redeemer, God himself has declared to be in a *lost and perishing* Condition; under his present *awful Curse*, and sinking into *everlasting perdition*, See Mark xvi. 16. John iii. 18, 36. 2 Cor. iv. 3, 4.

(2) The Insufficiency of Man's *own Righteousness and Power* for his Salvation and Happiness.

NOTHING is more *destructive* to the souls of men, and *contrary* to the glory of God's infinite Wisdom

6 *The Insufficiency of Man, for*

Wisdom and free Mercy in their Salvation by JESUS CHRIST, than a *self-righteous, self-sufficient* spirit. No men in the world are farther from salvation by JESUS CHRIST, than such as depend upon their *own worthiness* for acceptance with God; expect heaven as the fruit of their *own righteousness*, and trust in their *own power of grace* to carry them thither: CHRIST himself tells us, *That Publicans and Harlots do enter into the kingdom of heaven before such*, Matt. xxi. 31, 32. Luke xviii. 19—24.—However virtuous and good, pious and devout, men may conceive themselves to be, if they expect God's present acceptance and final salvation on *that* account, either in whole or in part, they set up themselves as their *own Redeemers* — 'They renounce the *all perfect* and *only justifying* Righteousness of the Lord JESUS CHRIST — And make void all the *glorious designs* of God's free and sovereign Mercy in Man's Salvation, Gal. v. 2—4. ch. iii. 11—22. Rom xi. 6. *As all have sinned, and come short of the glory of GOD, and are become guilty before Him*, Rom. iii. 19—22. the dreadful curses of fiery judgment and damnation, are only remitted to them, who, despairing to obtain salvation of themselves, receive it entirely as the *free gift of GOD's grace* in CHRIST JESUS, Rom. v. 16, 17. ch. vi 23. Jude 21. Christians must be diligent in the practice of all *moral* duties, but it is CHRIST's compleat satisfaction and righteousness, and not *their* imperfect holiness, that must be their *justification* before God. As the Lord JESUS has *by himself* purged our sins, Heb. i. 3. so he expects the *whole praise* of our salvation: And will either be *All* in *All* or *Nothing*, as to procuring our forgiveness or acceptance with God: and the true Christian will rejoice to renounce *his own* Excellencies, Righteousness, Privileges, &c. that the Lord JESUS *alone* may

may be exalted, Isa. ii. 11. 1 Cor. i. 30. — And we also need his continual Grace to *assist* us, as well as his Merits to *justify* us, for *without Him we can do nothing* acceptable to God, John xv. 5.

How contrary soever this may be to the natural pride and ignorance of fallen Man; every soul that will be *saved* by Him, must be effectually convinced of its own *absolute insufficiency* to restore and save itself: Coming unto CHRIST JESUS as *condemned, lost, and helpless* in itself, 2 Cor. v. 14. venturing its eternal All upon the Alone and Everlasting Foundation of CHRIST'S *Mediation* and *Sacrifice* (as well as depending on Him continually for all supplies of grace and goodness.) And thus expecting no salvation from *his own* works, but *believing in Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for Righteousness*, Rom. iv. 4—6. For *Christ is the end of the law for Righteousness to every one that believeth*, Rom. x. 4. — Which way of FREE JUSTIFICATION through the *precious blood* and *infinite merits* of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, is in many scriptures called the *Righteousness of GOD*, 2 Cor. v. 17. Rom. x. 2. Phil. iii. 9. Isa. xlv. 22. Not only being a Righteousness of God's *appointing*, but the Righteousness of Him who is God *Himself*; who purchased the Church with *His own Blood*, Acts xx. 28. 1 John iii. 16. Having these transcendent properties, that it is ALL PERFECT, UNCHANGEABLE, and EVERLASTING, Dan. ix. 24. Isa. li. 6.

Certainly the Christian that surveys *his own* righteousness, prayers, repentings, fastings, &c. with an impartial eye, can find *no foundation* for his soul to rest securely upon, by reason of the *manifold defects* and *blemishes* that inseparably cleave unto him, but in the Lord JESUS CHRIST *alone*, 1 Cor. iii. 11. Acts iv. 12. — He is convinced that the

best of his duties cannot *save* him, and that the least of his sins may *damn* him.—That his own righteousness is *defiled*; that his prayers need *pardon*; his repentance needs *repenting* of; his tears for sin need *washing* in the Blood of the Lamb; and his very holiness needs a *more perfect* righteousness to save him from condemnation, in the sight of an infinitely just and holy God, *Job* ix. 2—33. *ch.* xxv. 4—6. Who then can stand before God, by virtue of his *own obedience*, when he appears in Judgment? surely *none*, *Psal.* cxxx. 1. *Isa.* vi. 1—5.

(3) An earnest persuasive TO BELIEVE IN
the Lord JESUS CHRIST, &c.

LET every Sinner of the human Race be *persuaded* and *encouraged* for their souls sake, to BELIEVE in the merciful Lord and Redeemer of Men, that they may obtain everlasting life and happiness from him.—Sirs, consider seriously, what could God your Saviour have done *for* you, or promised *to* you to make you happy, which he has not *done* and *promised*?—He laid aside his robes of *Majesty* and *Glory*, to cloath himself with your flesh—He came from his *Royal Throne* above, and humbled himself to the *death of the Cross* to satisfy divine Justice for your Transgressions.—And has brought *everlasting life* and *salvation* to your very doors; and will you *not receive* him?—He promises to give you *all needful supplies* of Blessings for soul and body, for time and eternity, *Psal.* lxxxiv. 11. To protect you from the *Devil* and all your *spiritual Enemies*; to save you from *Sin* and *Hell*; and bestow *Heaven* and *Himself* upon you; and will you yet *refuse* him?

Though you have *no* goodness or excellence to recommend you; though you are *corrupt* as *Sodom*,
and

and *deformed* as Hell, by Lust and Sin, yet if you are but *truly* and *heartily* willing to be now divorced from your sinful lusts and vicious practices, and to receive CHRIST JESUS for your rightful Lord and only Saviour ; He is infinitely willing to *embrace* you, and *engage* Himself to you for your everlasting Happiness, *Hof. ii. 19.—Luke xv. 20.* — Nay, if through the depravity of your nature, you find any *backwardness* or *reluctance* of mind to this blessed Choice, He will even *remove* your prejudices, *conquer* your unwillingness, and *give you power* to Believe and Repent, if you *now* seriously and diligently seek unto Him. See *Psal. cx. 3. Acts v. 31. Eph. ii. 8.*

O! believe it therefore to be your highest wisdom, your indispensable duty, your whole salvation, to *yield yourselves entirely* to the Care and Conduct of the Lord JESUS : To love his glorious *Person*, submit to his gentle *Government*, and trust in his *saving Power* and *Grace*—There is every thing in Him to *recommend* Him to your Choice and Esteem ; whether you consider his *wonderful Excellencies*, or *precious Benefits*, the *unspeakable Happiness* of those that receive Him, or the *inconceivable Misery* of those who slight and reject Him.

1st, Meditate on His *unspeakable Excellencies* until your hearts are filled with Reverence, Wonder, and Love.—He is the *Lord of glory*, 1 Cor. ii. 8.—The *Lord of hosts*, *Isa. vi. 3–9. John xiv. 41.* —IMMANUEL, or *God with us*, Matt. i. 23.—*The great God and our Saviour*, 2 Pet. i. 1.—JEHOVAH our *Righteousness*, Jerem. xxiii. 6.—GOD *over all*, *blessed for ever*, Rom. ix. 5.—*The mighty GOD, the everlasting Father*, *Isa. ix. 6.*—Possessing *all the fulness* of God substantially, *Col. ii. 9.*—Being *equal with GOD* in nature, *Phil. ii. 6.*—*Eternal*, *Mic.*

v. 2. — *Unchangeable*, Heb. xiii. 8. — *Omniscient*, Rev. ii. 18—23. — *Almighty*, Rev. i. 8—13. — To whom all possible *homage* and *worship* by all creatures in heaven and earth is to be paid, *John* v. 23. *Rev.* v. 11—14. — Being the *first Cause*, and *highest End* of all things; By whom and for whom they were created, *Coloss.* i. 16. *John* i. 1. — Possessing at once all the excellencies of *both* natures, GOD and Man, *John* i. 5. — Having *all dominion* in heaven and earth committed unto him, *Matt.* xxviii. 18. — Ruling over the kingdoms of *nature*, *Matt.* viii. 26. *Acts* ix. 33. Of *Providence*, *Dan.* vii. 27. *Zech.* vi. 12, 13. and of *Grace*, *John* v. 21. *Gal.* vi. 18. — Being the great and appointed *Judge* of Quick and Dead at the last day, *Acts* xvii. 31. *Rom.* xiv. 10.

As one *Ocean* hath more waters than all the *rivers* of the earth, and one *Sun* more light than all the *luminaries* of heaven; so there is in one Lord JESUS CHRIST *more glory* and *excellence* than in all Worlds, in all Angels, in all Delights, or whatsoever is lovely in heaven or earth. — All created excellencies *derive* their being from Him; *depend* continually upon him; and are *unsatisfying* without Him, *Col.* i. 15—19. *Psal.* lxxiii. 25, 26. He is more than all *temporal* good, as the Light of the Sun is *more* than that of a Candle. — He is more than all *spiritual* Blessings, as the Fountain is more than the Streams — He is more than all *heavenly* glories, as the Tree is more than the Fruit. — There are those wonderful excellencies in his *divine Person* that are unspeakably beyond salvation itself: it is the very heaven of happiness to be *with him where he is*, to behold his *Glory*, *John* xvii. 24. A little knowledge of his transcendent Loveliness gives to the admiring, believing mind, *inconceivable joy*, and *heavenly pleasure*, 1 *Pet.* i. 8. — Were the de-
plorable

plorable mists of sinful Ignorance and Darkneſs removed from the Minds of Men, they could not but be *amazed at*, and *enamoured with* his glorious and eternal excellencies, for they are *infinite and unſearchable*, Eph. iii. 8.

2dly, Conſider the *precious Benefits* which the Lord JESUS CHRIST beſtows upon all that truly *believe* in him; that you may be ſenſible of their *great happineſs*, and never reſt until you poſſeſs it *for yourſelf*. The great and bleſſed Redeemer of Men is not only poſſeſſed of infinite Amiability and Excellence *in Himſelf*, but He is infinitely diffuſive of Goodneſs and Happineſs *to others*. There are in his Love and Goodneſs, *Heights and Depths, Lengths and Breadths, which ſurpaſs all Knowledge*, Eph. iii. 18, 19.—There is a transcendent, ſatisfying *fulneſs in CHRIST JESUS*, ſuitable to all the *Necceſſities, Deſires, and Happineſs* of perishing, immortal Souls. In one crucified JESUS you will find an infinite ſufficiency of *Rightcouſneſs*, to cover all your Sins, 1 John i. 7.—Inexhauſtible Riches of *Goodneſs* to ſupply all your Wants, Phil. iv. 19.—Abundant *Grace*, to ſubdue all your luſts, Matt. i. 21.—Unſearchable *Wiſdom*, to guide all your Ways, 1 Cor. i. 30.—Almighty *Power*, to vanquiſh all your ſpiritual Enemies, Col. ii. 15.—Sovereign *Virtue*, to heal all your ſoul's diſeaſes, Luke v. 21.—And unmeaſureable *Fulneſs* of Grace and Goodneſs, both to *ſatisfy and ſave* you, and that to the *very uttermoſt*, Heb. vii. 25.

All the treaſures of his Mercy and Love; his Rightcouſneſs and Salvation, Life and Pardon, Peace and Glory, are open to every humble, believing Sinner. *Riches and Honour are with Him; yea, durable Riches and Rightcouſneſs: and He cauſes thoſe that love Him to inherit ſubſtance*, Prov. viii. 18—21.—Happy, beyond expreſſion happy,
are

are all those who are *interested* in Him, and *united* to Him by faith and love! They are *pardoned* and *reconciled* to God, Rom. v. 1.—Become his dear *Children*, John i. 12.—Have his Spirit *dwelling* in them, Gal. iii. 14.—And enjoy *liberty of Access* unto Him at all times, Heb. x. 19—23.—They are the special care of God's kind and tender Providence, 1 Pet. iii. 12.—Have his faithful promises of *all needful good* in this life, Matt. vi. 30—33. chap. vii. 11. and are the heirs of *everlasting life* and *glory* in the World to come, John iii. 14—16. Rom. viii. 17.—God their Saviour, in all the riches of his Goodness, in all his special Relations, *is theirs*, 2 Cor. vi. 16—18.—They are entitled to all the *blessed Promises* of his Word, 2 Pet. i. 14. Which they may humbly and assuredly *claim* from him, by faith and prayer, according to their need, John xv. 7. John v. 14.

So that if you truly *believe* in the Lord Jesus, and *trust* on Him as your *whole* salvation, He will bestow upon you *all the benefits* of every kind relation and character He bears to his people. He will be the *bread of life* to nourish your soul, John vi. 37.—A *Physician* to heal it, Matt. ix. 12.—An *Advocate* to plead for you before God, 1 John ii. 2.—A *Counsellor* to advise you, Isa. ix. 6.—A *Captain* to defend you, Heb. ii. 10.—A *Prophet* to instruct, Acts vii. 37. A *Priest* to atone for, Heb. ii. 17, 18. and a *King* to govern you, Psal. ii. 2.—He will be as an *Husband* to protect you, 1 Cor. xi. 2.—A *Father* to provide for you, Isa. ix. 6, 7.—A *Brother* to relieve you, John xx. 17.—A *Foundation* to support you, Isa. xxviii. 16. A *Root* to give you life, Rev. xxii. 16.—An *Head* to guide you, Eph. i. 22.—A *Treasure* to enrich you, Eph. iii. 8.—A *Sun* to enlighten and cheer you, Mal. iv. 2.—A *Fountain* to cleanse you, Zech. xiii. 1.—A *Sanctuary* to cover you,

you, *Isa.* viii. 4.—An *Anchor of Hope* to comfort and establish you, *Heb.* vi. 18, 19.—And whatsoever is necessary for your *complete salvation* and *happiness* for both Worlds, *1 Cor.* iii. 22, 23. *Col.* ii. 9, 10.—Having in Him all the fulness of *Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification* and *Redemption* to bestow upon you, *1 Cor.* i. 29—31.

This is the *great* and *infinite Gift* which God our Saviour, out of the unfearchable depth of his Mercy and Love, doth *most freely grant* to the poor and miserable, the accursed and perishing sinners of Men, even *Himself*, and *all his Treasures* of Grace and Goodness, *Isa.* lv. 1—7. *ch.* ix. 6, 7. *Rom.* viii. 28—36.—What wells of *salvation* are here! What blessed and everlasting foundations of *Joy* and *Triumph*, to every one that truly believes in JESUS CHRIST the Lord! How can the guilty sons of *Adam* help the congratulating each other for these *glad tidings of great joy which is to all people; in that there is born unto us a SAVIOUR, which is Christ the Lord*; so suitable in all respects to their helpless, fallen state! how can they avoid joining with the heavenly host in praising God, and saying, *Glory to GOD in the highest, for this his good will to Men*, *Luke* ii. 10—14.—How desperately *stupid, blind* and *foolish* has sin rendred the minds of Men, that they can receive the messagcs of this great salvation with *insensible Hearts*, and *reluctant Wills*!—O let not these Consolations of God *seem small* unto you; let not these heavenly blessings be *neglected* or *despised* by you, which are inconceivably more worth than all the treasures of earth.—Take heed lest that come upon you which is written in the sacred Book of God, *Behold, ye despisers, and wonder and perish*, *Acts* xiii. 41. lest God should swear in his wrath concerning you, *You shall never enter into my rest, because of your unbelief*, *Heb.* iv. 1—2, 3.

3dly, Consider therefore the *miserable State* and *aggravated Condemnation* of those who *slight* this blessed Redeemer and his great Salvation. How can those escape *double damnation* who *neglect* this wonderful Provision, which the infinite wisdom and mercy of GOD has made for their Recovery and Happiness in Jesus Christ! Who *despise* the eternal Son of GOD; who count his precious Blood and Sacrifice, by which they are redeemed, a *common thing*; and will not have this great and divine Saviour to *reign over* them; but prefer some sordid lust, vile affection, or earthly gain or pleasure *before Him*, Luke xix. 14. ch. xiv. 26—33. Heb. 10—28.—Pure and unmixed, unspeakable and everlasting *Vengeance* is reserved for the *contemners* of CHRIST JESUS and his Gospel. The great *condemnation* is for those who *might have* the Lord JESUS and all his saving benefits, and *would not*. Jews and Pagans, yea, Devils themselves, will *rise up* in judgment against such in the great day, and *condemn them*, Matt. xxiii. 13, 14.—Reader, if you are one of these, permit me, from the most affecting sense of your great danger and misery, and a tender regard to your eternal salvation and happiness, to set before you something of the *wretchedness* of your present Condition, that you may *bethink yourself* and *escape in time*.

While you are *without* CHRIST JESUS, in a state of unbelief, you are *under the guilt and condemnation of all the sins that ever you have committed*. The dreadful curses and condemning power of GOD's holy Law stand in full force against you for every transgression you have committed, in thought, speech, and behaviour. For all your *infidelity*, *atheism*, and *hypocrisy* of heart; for every instance of your *contempt of GOD*, his *Name*, *Word*, and *Worship*; of your *Sabbath-breaking*, *Lying*, *Injustice*,

*tice, Uncleanness; of your Pride, Covetousness, and Intemperance; with a thousand other evils.—Not one of all your numerous, aggravated sins, from the beginning of life to this present hour, is forgiven you—The divine Justice in all its dreadfulnes and terror hangs over your guilty head, ready to break forth upon you, John iii. 18. And being without CHRIST you have nothing to pacify the anger of almighty God, and save your perishing soul from hell and condemnation.—You have many accusers, and heavy accusations against you from God's broken Law, your own Conscience, and the Devil which tempteth you: but not having a saving interest in the Lord JESUS CHRIST, you have no Advocate or Intercessor with God to plead for you, and turn away his Vengeance from you; but are continually treasuring up more wrath against the day of wrath, and revelation of the righteous Judgment of God, Rom. ii. 1—7.—And the slighting or rejecting of the GREAT MEDIATOR is that which binds the Condemnation of all your other sins upon you. The compassionate Saviour of sinners Himself declares, that *he that believeth not shall be damned.—He shall not see life.—He shall die in his sins.—And that the Wrath of GOD abideth on Him, John iii. 36. ch. viii. 44.**

If men sin against the Law of God, they may find mercy and relief through a Redeemer, upon their sincere faith and repentance; but if they *sight and refuse JESUS CHRIST*, as their Lord and Saviour, *what else can deliver them?* How is their escape from hell and damnation possible, who reject his great salvation, and sin against this only Remedy? *Heb. ii. 2, 3.*

That which aggravates this great sin of *unbelief, or neglect* of the salvation of CHRIST, is, that it pours

16 *Persuasives to Believe, &c.*

pours the *wilest contempt* upon all the infinite Perfections of God's Wisdom and Mercy, Truth and Love, as they are wonderfully displayed in the redemption of sinners by JESUS CHRIST.—And it is offering the *greatest affront* to the unmeasurable Love and Grace of the Son of God, who went through such an amazing scene of *shame* and *sufferings* for Man's Salvation on earth; and is now in Heaven ready to intercede for them, and bring them to God and Glory—As well as that it is the *certain destruction* of the unhappy, ungrateful Sinner for ever.

May the great Father of Mercies have Compassion on the *unbelieving hard-hearted* sinners of Men, who have no Mercy on themselves; and open their eyes to see their *guilt* and *danger* while forgiveness and salvation *may be had*.—Sirs, one would think that your faces should turn pale, the joints of your loins be loosed, and your knees smite one against another with Consternation, while you read the denunciations of the Almighty's *Anger* and *Wrath* against you, for your Impenitence and Unbelief! One would think that the great danger of your state should fill your hearts with *horror* and *amazement*; should keep you from *sleeping*, astonish and terrify you with *dreams* in the night, and spoil all the *comforts* and *enjoyments* of your lives!—What, to have the solemn sentence of *condemnation* pronounced against you by the great and holy God!—To lie under the *dreadful curses* of his Law and Gospel, which his incensed Justice may execute upon you *this day* or *hour* to your everlasting perdition! Who can bear the thought without trembling and astonishment?—O fly immediately to the Lord JESUS CHRIST, as as the *great* and *only* SAVIOUR of sinful Men, as
God

Encouragements and Directions, &c. 17

God hath commanded you, *John* iii. 23. and lay your guilty, perishing soul at his feet, that you may be delivered by Him from God's *present anger*, and the *wrath to come*; and he will mercifully *forgive* what is past, and *save* and *bless* you for the time to come, *John* vi. 35.

(4) ENCOURAGEMENTS and DIRECTIONS for convinced, repenting Sinners to COME TO CHRIST for Salvation.

LET every humbled, repenting Sinner be *persuaded* and *encouraged* to come to this gracious Lord and Redeemer for life and salvation. He is *infinitely able* and *willing* to supply all your wants, to pardon all your sins, to heal all your spiritual diseases, to subdue every powerful lust, to reconcile you to God, restore you to his lovely Image, and make you most happy and blessed for ever. — The fulness of CHRIST's saving power and mercy is not to be measured by the largest Understanding. *The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST is exceeding abundant*, 1 Tim. i. 14. *He is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto GOD by him*, Heb. vii. 25. — "Heaven, as one observes, "is full of the miracles of CHRIST's astonishing "love and unmerited mercy. There is murder- "ous and idolatrous *Manasseh*, oppressing *Zaccheus*, "blaspheming *Paul*, lascivious *Magdalen*, and "millions of *others*, equal in vileness and guilt, "filled with the holy Spirit of God; singing the "high praises of God and the Lamb among "adoring Saints and Angels. — Nay, the very "Betrayers and Murderers of our blessed Lord and Saviour

“ Saviour himself, are receiving eternal life and
 “ happiness from that precious blood which *their*
 “ *own guilty hands did shed*, Acts ii. 36—38.

O let every convinced sinner therefore, whose soul is bowed down under a sense of guilt and misery, take heed of entertaining *mean* and *unworthy* thoughts of this glorious and divine Redeemer. — Poor worm of the earth, what are all *thy* wants and distresses to the unsearchable fulness of *his* grace and mercy?—What are *thy* sins and provocations to the infinite merit of *his* precious Blood, and the almighty efficacy of *his* gracious Intercession?—If *all the sins* that ever were committed, from the beginning of the Creation to this day, were to lie as a heavy load of guilt upon *thy single* soul, what proportion can they bear to the *unfathomable* mercies and *boundless* grace of God our Saviour? *Isa.* lv. 7. *Mark* iii. 38.

If you are concerned to *know how* you shall become *interested* in this great Redeemer and his Salvation? (and God forbid that any immortal soul dwelling in flesh should be *indifferent* to this important concern) you have an *answer* to this enquiry from God's own Word, *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved*, Acts xvi. 31.—Renounce all dependence upon *your own* Wisdom, Strength, and Goodness; constantly and entirely trusting in Him for *all* salvation. — Cordially resign yourself to his wise and gracious *authority* and *government*; yielding yourself to the rule of his *Spirit, Word, and Providence*.—And diligently *seek* his favour and love as *your chief happiness*; and he will *pardon* your manifold offences, *heal* your sinful nature, and *bless* you in the abundance of his grace and mercy, with *every needful good*, 1 Cor. iii. 21—23. Eph. i. 3—6.

In order to which, 1. Be willing and desirous to know the worst of your own *sinfulness, misery, and danger*, that you may have an affecting sense of the *great suitableness and necessity* of the Lord JESUS, in his saving Characters, *Matt. xi. 28. Rev. iii. 17.* No one can *believe* in Him aright who does not see their great *need* of Him, and his great *Excellence*, *Matt. ix. 12.* — 2. Seriously and diligently read the *Gospel of Christ*, in which his glorious Nature, and transcendent Goodness is made known, *John v. 39. 2 Cor. iv. 4—6.* And diligently attend the faithful *preaching* of it for this purpose; for divine Wisdom says, that *Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of GOD*, *Rom. x. 17. 1 Cor. i. 18—21.* — 3. Beg earnestly of God his holy Spirit, to *give you an understanding in Him that is true; even in his Son Jesus Christ; who is the true GOD, and eternal life*, *1 John v. 20.* And to *dispose your heart* to receive him as God's salvation. — Believe it, that saving knowledge and faith is the *gift of GOD* only, *Eph. ii. 8.* No one can *know or believe aright* in God the Saviour, but by *light and power* derived from *Himself*, *John vi. 44, 45. Matt. xi. 25, 26.* which is conveyed to them in the serious, diligent use of God's *appointed means*, especially his *Word and Prayer*, *Prov. ii. 3—6. ch. viii. 33, 34.* — 4. Conscientiously *seek after* those things which *please GOD*, and attend to your *duty* as far as you *know it*; carefully *avoiding* every thing which his sacred Word *forbids*, and *practising* those things which he there *requires*. No man can with reason hope for an interest in God's *salvation*, who lives in *wilful rebellion* against his wise and holy Government, *Matt. vii. 17—27.* But our Lord says, *If any Man will do his Will, he shall know his doctrine, and ENJOY his grace*, *John vii. 17. Heb. v. 9.*

(5) The

20 *Christians Increase in Knowledge, &c.*

(5) The farther KNOWLEDGE and USE of the LORD JESUS CHRIST in his Excellencies and Benefits, recommended to Christians.

LET every true Christian *infinitely prize and delight in* the glorious excellencies of this great Redeemer, and make *perpetual use* of Him in all his blessed Characters. O labour every day more and more to understand the *inconceivable excellencies* and *precious benefits* that are in CHRIST JESUS.—Consider frequently the inconceivable amiableness and glory of his *Person*, as perfect GOD and perfect Man united: Consider the dignity and usefulness of his *Characters*, as the great Mediator, Teacher, Head and Preserver of his Church and People, and Lord of all.—Pray earnestly that GOD would give you the *Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding in the knowledge of Him*; that you may *know what are the riches of his Glories*, and *what the hopes of your spiritual Calling in Him*, Eph. i. 17—19. That so by *beholding his Glory* from day to day, you may be *changed in the same Image, from glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord*, 2 Cor. iii. 18. Frequent looking to the LORD JESUS CHRIST, by knowledge and faith, will put a wonderful *Life and Comfort* into all the Christian's Graces and Duties, and cause Him to grow into a *blessed resemblance* of the Son of GOD, 1 John iii. 2.—And then make more *daily, constant use* of Him, in all the kind relations he bears to those that believe on Him, and the wonderful *discoveries* he has made of his own unsearchable Grace and Goodness. The Lord Jesus is of

inconceivable

Christians Increase in Knowledge, &c. 21

inconceivable use to the poor sinners of Men; and it is by *frequent, believing applications* to Him, that *from his fulness they receive grace for grace*, John i. 16. And blessed be his name, He is *infinitely free and bountiful* in dispensing his heavenly gifts and graces, to those that humbly *apply* unto him by faith and prayer, 1 Tim. i. 14.—This is the way to live in the comfortable sense of God's *forgiving Mercy*, in the happy possession of all spiritual *blessings*, and the joyful hopes of *everlasting life and glory*.—Certainly the reason why true Christians take no more *comfort and delight* in their blessed Lord and Saviour, and enjoy no more of the *pleasures* of Religion, is from their remaining deplorable *ignorance* of Him; or from some *sensual, base affection* too much prevailing, which obstructs their peace and happiness in him; or because they *too seldom apply* to Him by faith, for those heavenly blessings which He is most free and ready to bestow, *Ija.* xlv. 22—25. ch. lv. 1—3.—We cannot more *glorify* God our Saviour, or *do good* unto ourselves, than by a *constant, believing dependence* upon Him. *John vi. 22.*

(6) Supreme LOVE and AFFECTION due to the Lord JESUS CHRIST, from every Christian.

IS the Lord JESUS so glorious in his *Nature*, and excellent in his *Characters* as a Redeemer? hath He *done and suffered* so much for your salvation and happiness? surely nothing but a *supreme love* can be any ways *suitable* to such amazing Excellencies and precious Benefits.—Let him be the full and
complete

22 *Supreme Love to the Lord JESUS.*

complete Object of your *desire* and *hope*, *love* and *joy*. Let Him be in your thoughts the *first* in the morning, and the *last* at night; view his glorious Goodness and condescending Mercy, until your souls are filled with *Wonder*, and inflamed with *Love*. Christian, why should you suffer your affections to run after this *present World* and the things of it? Can the World *die* for you, or *reconcile* you to God, or *advance* you to the kingdom of Heaven? Or has it any Excellence or Happiness in it *comparable* to your dearest Lord and Saviour?—O love Him then above your *lusts*; love Him above your *relations*; love Him above all the *gains* and *pleasures* of the World; yea, love Him above your *very lives*, or he will not esteem that you love him *at all* in truth. Luke xiv. 26. Matt. x. 37.—“That person does not love the Lord JESUS CHRIST *sincerely*, who loves any thing *more than* CHRIST, *or equal* to Him.” 1 John iii. 15 —See what affection the *primitive* Christians bore unto their Lord and Saviour; *they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name*, Acts v. 41. Yea, *they loved not their lives unto death*, for his sake, Rev. xii. 11. And the *same* true love reigns in every upright disciple of CHRIST now.—Certainly the more the Lord JESUS hath done and suffered *for us*, the more dear He should be *unto us*.—Who can conceive the glories of his divine *Person*, the greatness of his *Sufferings*, the preciousness of his *Benefits*!—O let an *infinitely lovely* and *ever-loving* Jesus lie perpetually near to your very heart, and kindle such flames of love in your soul, as may for ever be breaking forth *in your lips* and *in your life*, in all holy zeal and affectionate duty and worship, to the praise and glory of his Majesty and
Grace.

The Obligation of Obedience, &c. 23

Grace. *That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in Him, according to the grace of our GOD, and of Jesus Christ our Lord, 1 Thes. i. 12. Colos. i. 10. And now begin that everlasting song of praise, for his free and undeserved Love and Goodness, Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own Blood; and hath made us Kings and Priests unto GOD and his Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever, Rev. i. 5, 6. ch. v. 9—13.*

(7) The Christian's obligation to humble DUTY, and affectionate ZEAL for the Lord JESUS.

IF you have been delivered from the *kingdom of Darkness*, and a *state of guilt and condemnation*, by JESUS CHRIST; how should you *live* as a Monument of God's unspeakable Mercy, and of his free and everlasting Love? What infinite sums of *duty* and *zeal* do you owe to the Lord JESUS, for his redeeming Power and Grace? how deeply should you think yourself engaged to *walk worthy of your Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good Work, and increasing in the knowledge of GOD, Colos. i. 10.* — Keep always an *humble, contrite frame of heart*, sensible of any *spiritual Miscarriage*, observant of all the *inward workings* of your soul. Let not guilt *remain* upon the Conscience, but by *sincere repentance* towards God, and a *speedy application by faith* to the atoning Blood of the Lamb of God, get it immediately removed.—Be especially watchful against those sins which your *constitution, place or calling*, most expose you unto —
Remember

24 *The Obligation of Obedience, &c.*

Remember always that it was *Sin* that crucified the Lord of glory, shed his most precious Blood, and caused all his sharp and bitter sufferings, *Isa.* liii. 5—11. It was even *thy* pride, unbelief and hypocrisy, *thy* covetousness, lust and intemperance, &c. O Christian, that were the *cruel Murderers* of thy Lord and Saviour.—How should this excite you to look upon that as an *accursed* thing, for which your Redeemer became a *Curse*, *Gal.* iii. 13.—“Certainly that Person can have no true *love* to the Lord JESUS CHRIST, or *interest* in his salvation, that can *delight* in *Sin*, which is so contrary to his *holy Nature*, and *redeeming Grace*.” Every true Christian is sincerely desirous to *imitate* his divine Lord and Master in the *holiness* of his *Life*, as well as to *enjoy* the purchased *fruits* of his *Death*, *Rom.* viii. 1—29. And is recovered to a *willing subjection* to all his wise and righteous precepts, *1 John* iii. 3—10. *Psal.* cxix. 6. Since as a perfect Redeemer, *he is the Author of eternal salvation to those only who obey Him*, *Heb.* v. 9. Amen.

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